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Our Case No. 3614/171

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

### In the Specification

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 after the Title to read as follows:

This is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/824,519, filed April 2, 2001, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/100,336, filed March 26, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,230,057, which is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/642,702, filed June 3, 1996, which was assigned